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**Skowhegan Man Sentenced for Federal Firearms Offenses**

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Andrew N. Melcher**, 30, of Skowhegan, was sentenced on November 26, 2007, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, to 24 months imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$400.00 for Possession of Firearms by a Convicted Felon.

Court records reveal that in March and April 2006, Andrew Melcher unlawfully possessed firearms and pawned the stolen weapons at the Norridgewock Trading Post and a Canaan, Maine pawnshop. An indictment returned by a Federal grand jury alleges that Melcher was prohibited from possessing firearms because he had five felony convictions for burglary.

This case was a part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Eastern Maine Violent Crime Task Force.

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